(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A special release of 3000 KL-HSD was made for Kerala in January 1991 due to the Sabrimala pilgrim season. A special release of 1100 KL HSD has been made for Kerala in February 1991 to meet requirements of the agriculture sector. These releases are over and above the normal entitlement for the State.

Use of Solar Energy in Remote Areas

174. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Solar energy brings life to Mizo village' which appeared in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated 30th January, 1991, to the effect that the tribals of the remote Jam-pui hills in the tri-junction of Tri-pura-Mizoram-Bangladesh border have now access to electricity through a solar photovoltaic system;

(b) whether it is a fact that the solar energy at present is used only for entertainment purposes with the objective of integrating the tribals with the national mainstream;

(c) if so, whether Government have drawn up any plan to use solar power in minor irrigation/cooking purposes; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take for providing electricity in remote areas through non-conven tional sources of energy, especially in areas which are situated far away from the main grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Solar energy systems are presently being demonstrated and utilised for various appilcations like lighting, water pumping, community television, communications, .railway signalling, water heating and cooking etc. Under the demonstration programme of Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (DNES), SPY water pumping systems are provided for minor irrigation and under Solar Thermal Extension Programme (STEP) of DNES, solar cookers are sold at subsidised price for cooking Department of Non-Conventional Energy sources is also implementing demonstration programme for electrification of remote villages/hamlets using solar photovolta power plants and biomass gasfires.

Supply of quality steam coal from Eastern Coalfields Limited

175. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a feature titled 'Battle for Survival' which appeared in the daily Financial Express, New Dehi, dated the 17th January, 1991 highlighting the plight of small, scale pottery units in the capital on account of irreguar and short supply of steam coal;

(b) whether it is a fact that although the Railways agreed to supply 96 wagons in 1990 for movement of coal from Eastern Coalfields Limited, Eastern Coalfields did not supply even 50 per cent of the allotted coal; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the supply of quality steam coal from Eastern Coalfields Limited to avoid sickness in this small scale industry?